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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 20 October 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Committee of the Security Council established by resolution 1540 (2004) and has the honour to transmit herewith the national report of the Government of Belize pursuant to said resolution.

The Permanent Mission of Belize would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 20 October 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

Report of the Government of Belize pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)*

Belize is pleased to report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) of its actions in regard to the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons particularly as it relates to the implementation of said resolution.

At the outset, Belize confirms that it does not provide any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

Belize is firmly committed to international efforts for arms control and disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Accordingly, Belize is a party to major multilateral treaties relating to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, including:

- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
- Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction

At the national level, Belize is in the process of developing legislation in particular to give effect to the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. The proposed Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Bill makes it an offence to develop, produce or use chemical weapons; or to assist with such activities; and otherwise regulates chemical weapons.

* The statutory instruments referred to in the report are on file with the Secretariat, room S-3055, and are available for consultation.

The Bill also establishes domestic control to prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons. In particular, the Bill provides that those dealing with toxic chemicals provide information to the Government and maintain appropriate records. The Government may also seek information or authorize inspections of facilities. Likewise, the Bill has provisions concerning national control lists.

To date, Belize has not yet enacted legislation to give effect to the remaining multilateral treaties relating to disarmament and non-proliferation. The matter of capacity is a recurrent issue.

Nonetheless, Belize remains engaged in dialogue and cooperation on non-proliferation issues. Within the larger context of the Proliferation Security Initiative, Belize is presently negotiating with the United States of America for a bilateral agreement on cooperation to suppress the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems and related materials by sea.

20 October 2004